



SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
RURAL DISTRICT

in the

Administrative County of Cambridge

---

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for

---

1943

---



To the Chairman and Members  
of the  
South Cambridgeshire Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentleman,

I present for your consideration my  
Annual Report for the year 1943 on the Health, Sanitary  
Conditions, and Vital Statistics of the South Cambridgeshire  
Rural District.

The report is an abbreviated one, and  
there are no matters of immediate urgency towards which it is  
necessary to draw attention except, perhaps, those connected  
with future developments in Housing, Water Supply and Sewerage.

The general health of the population  
has continued to be good.

Arthur Morgan,  
Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area of District	-	112,315
Number of inhabited houses	-	7,256
Number of parishes	-	52
Rateable value	-	£75,982
Sum represented by a penny rate	-	£321. 11s. 3d.

Apart from one parish, where there are several factories, the whole area is rural in character. The major occupations are those associated with agriculture or subsidiary thereto.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

## Live Births:-

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate	342	177	165
Illegitimate	39	18	21
Totals.	<u>381</u>	<u>195</u>	<u>186</u>

Birth Rate per 1000 estimated resident population	- 16.9
Birth Rate per 1000 population (England and Wales)	- 16.5

## Still Births:-

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate.	12	5	7
Illegitimate	1	1	-
Totals	<u>13</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>

Rate per 1000 total (live and still births)	- 33.0
---	--------

## Deaths:-

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
	282	129	153

Death Rate per 1000 estimated resident population	- 12.5.
Death Rate per 1000 population (England and Wales)	- 12.1

## Deaths from puerperal causes:-

(a) Puerperal sepsis	- Nil.
(b) Other puerperal causes	- Nil.

## Number of deaths of infants under one year of age:-

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate	8	5	3
Illegitimate	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2</u>
	<u>10</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>

## Death Rate of infants under one year of age:-

(a) All infants per 1000 live births	- 26.2
(b) Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	- 23.3
(c) Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	- 51.2

	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938
Deaths from measles (all ages)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)	-	-	1	-	-	-
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	-	1	-	-	-
Deaths from pneumonia (all ages)	8	11	12	15	8	6
Deaths from influenza (all ages)	8	4	8	7	8	2
Deaths from cancer (all ages)	47	54	55	59	39	41



GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

There are no alterations to record except the resignation of Mr. R. Boast the Assistant Sanitary Inspector, who left the service of the Council in October.

Public Health Officers of the Authority:-

(a) A whole time Medical Officer of Health who also acts for other districts.

(b) Since the resignation of the Assistant Sanitary Inspector Mr. A.C. Dyson, the Senior Inspector, has carried on without assistance, no successor to Mr. Boast having been appointed. It is impossible, in a scattered area of this size, for work to be done efficiently by one Inspector.

Laboratory Facilities:-

Chemical and bacteriological examinations of water are made by the Public Analyst at Cambridge. The Emergency Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge, make all the necessary bacteriological examinations in cases of infectious disease, etc.

Samples of milk are dealt with by the Agricultural Department, University of Cambridge, or by the Emergency Public Health Laboratory.

Hospitals:-

There are no General Hospitals situated in the area.

Isolation Hospitals:-

None within the area. Cases of infectious disease requiring hospital treatment are generally sent to the Cambridge Borough Isolation Hospital. Some, however, have gone to the Newmarket Rural District Council's (Cambs) Isolation Hospital near Newmarket. In each case the charges are £2 12.6. weekly plus the cost of removal by ambulance.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply:-

Of the 32 parishes in the Western part of the district 19 have a piped supply from the Council's waterworks at Wendy, three from the Saffron Walden area, and one has a partial supply from the East Hunts. Water Co., which is not particularly efficient. The other 9 parishes, except Kingston, depend upon wells, and the situation is far from being satisfactory. In most of the Analyst's reports on water samples from the Western Area supply scheme he comments upon the turbidity of the water caused by precipitation of iron oxycarbonate and upon the presence of iron bacteria. In addition there have been numerous complaints from consumers. In view of these facts an application was made to the Ministry of Health for permission to install a filtration plant at the Croydon pumping station. Consent was not given and the Council were advised to obtain a report from Drs. Beale and Suckling as to the possibility of treating the water by chemical means. Treatment by sodium hexa-metaphosphate (Calgon) was advised and started in October.

In the Eastern portion of the district there are 20 parishes, these originally constituted the old Linton Rural District. Thirteen have a piped supply from the Linton Waterworks and one from its own Waterworks. The remaining six parishes in the Cam valley are unprovided for. Attention should be given to the needs of these villages at the earliest possible moment.

All the piped supplies are constant and have been well maintained.

Proportion of houses to which water is laid on	- 2,380
Proportion of houses supplied by standpipes and those within 100 yards of a water main	- 2,427

## Number of samples taken for analysis:-

(A) Piped supplies (Chemical and bacteriological)	- 48
Piped supplies (bacteriological)	- 26

In every instance the results indicated that the necessary standard of purity was being maintained.

(B) Privatesupplies (Chemical examination only)	- 15
---	------

Eleven were stated to be fit for drinking purposes and four to be unfit.

## Drainage and Sewerage:-

During the year new drains complying with the Building Byelaws were constructed for eight houses. In connection with another 12 houses the drains were found not to comply with the requirements of the Byelaws and were altered accordingly.

At Sawston the main sewer and the sewage disposal works function in a most unsatisfactory manner and have been the source of much complaint. An effort has been made to improve the condition of the sewer in High Street by having it cleaned out once every three months and bringing into use flushing tanks thus enabling the sewer to be flushed out weekly.

There is now some reduction in the amount of trade effluent entering the disposal works, but little purification takes place, as is evidenced by the Analyst's reports on samples of the treated effluent. Actually the works are quite incapable of dealing with the quantity of sewage passing through them and the matter will not be remedied until the village is properly sewered and adequate disposal works constructed.

## Rivers and Streams:-

At Linton there is pollution of the river from the road drains. Quite a number of houses are connected to these road drains and until the village is sewered and house drains cut off, the pollution will continue. There is also pollution of the river at Sawston by the effluent from the sewage disposal works.

The whole question of sewerage and sewage disposal is one that will need urgent attention as soon as possible. In my opinion the parishes that should be dealt with first are: Sawston, Linton, Gamlingay, Melbourn and Balsham.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

## 1. Number of water closets provided:-

(a) By conversion of privies or pail closets to water closets	8
(b) By provision of new water closets at Factories	2

## 2. Number of pail closets provided:-

(a) By conversion of privies to pail closets	4
(b) By provision of new pail closets to Factories	3

PUBLIC CLEANING.

Periodical collections of refuse were continued in the parishes of Bassingbourn, Kneesworth, Meldreth, Melbourn, Litlington, Thriplow, Hinxton, Ickleton, Linton, Gt. Chishill, Sawston, Horseheath, Castle Camps, Shudy Camps, Gamlingay, East Hatley, Hatley St. George and Whittlesford.

Some of the refuse dumps in the district are now in a very untidy condition due to dumping by unauthorised persons.

A regular collection of night soil was continued in part of the town of Sawston comprising 165 houses.



CAMPING SITES.

During the year 5 licences were granted in respect of sites for Moveable Dwellings.

ERADICATION OF RED BUGS.

Disinfestation was carried out at 2 Labour Camps and 5 houses by spraying with Zaldecide.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Complaints.	217
Housing:-	
General Inspections for repairs etc.	75
Housing (Consolidated) Regulations.	32
Reinspections.	666
Overcrowding.	14
Infectious Diseases:-	
Cases Investigated.	20
No. of rooms disinfected.	29
Vermineous Premises:-	
Inspections.	20
Disinfestations.	15
Water Supply:-	
Inspections.	133
Samples of water for Analysis.	92
Samples of water taken re. chemical treatment.	17
Chlorination Tests.	45
Milk and Dairies Order:-	
Inspections of cowsheds and dairies.	57
No. of samples of milk taken.	56
No. of Sediment Tests made.	30
Meat Inspections.	324
Ditches, drains and cesspools.	213
Food premises, bakehouses etc.	30
Factories Act.	70
Sanitary Accommodation.	215
Shops Act.	2
Schools.	28
Scavenging and Cleansing.	80
Moveable Dwellings.	11
Sewage Disposal.	178
Infestation Order, 1943.	217
A.R.P. Services.	33
Salvage.	30
Miscellaneous Inspections	70
	<u>3532</u>
Number of statutory Notices served	16
Number of nuisances abated and defects etc., remedied	117

Repairs done to 107 houses as a result of informal action.

Repairs done to 18 houses as a result of formal action.

HOUSING.

Repairs of an urgent and essential nature have been dealt with as far as possible, but there are difficulties in obtaining the necessary labour and material particularly for repairing thatched roofs.

At the present time quite a number of cottages are occupied which, owing to their state of disrepair, would not, under normal conditions be tenanted at all.

In the future, no doubt, it will be possible to do a good deal by re-construction and repairing, but a fairly extensive post war building programme will be required if anything like a good standard of housing is to be maintained.

From time to time a good deal of information has been collected about the housing conditions in the district. This information, however, needs supplementing and bringing up to date, and this cannot be done under present staffing conditions.

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:-

- |  |    |
|--|----|
| (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).   | 81 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose   | 81 |
| (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head [1] above) which were inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932.   | 32 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose   | 32 |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation                                     | 30 |
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. | 81 |

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:-

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.	107
--	-----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

- |  |    |
|--|----|
| (A) Proceedings under section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.                                     |    |
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs                  | 12 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-                  |    |
| (a) By Owners  | 1  |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners  | 14 |
| (B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-   |    |
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied   | 4  |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices             |    |
| (a) By owners  | -  |
| (b) By Local Authorities in default of owners  | 4  |
| (C) Proceedings under section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-                                       |    |
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made                            | -  |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders:-                             |    |
| (a) By owners  | -  |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners  | -  |
| (D) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:-  |    |
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made       | 2  |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined | -  |

4. Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding.

Number of new cases of overcrowding	1
Number of cases abated	1



Inspection and Supervision of Food.

## (a) Milk Supply:-

Number of Wholesale Producers	59
Number of Retail Producers	60
Number of Wholesale and Retail Producers	21
Number of Retail Purveyors only	14

During the year 570 visits were made to cowsheds and dairies, as a result of which a number of preliminary notices were served relating to structural alterations, want of cleanliness, provision of overalls and towels, unsatisfactory water supply etc.

30 sediment tests were made at the cowsheds whilst milking was in progress and where the results were unsatisfactory, the milkers were asked to exercise greater precautions.

56 samples of milk were taken from Producer Retailers under the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme.

## (b) Meat and other Foods:-

Number of visits to meat stores, shops and buffer depots 324

Meat, tinned foods etc. found on inspection to be unfit for human consumption, which were voluntarily surrendered and destroyed:-

43 lbs. of bacon.  
 407 lbs. of beef.  
 11 lbs. of pigs offal.  
 9 lbs. of beasts offal.  
 352 lbs. of Corned Beef.  
 264 lbs. of Pork Luncheon Meat.  
 236 lbs. of Sugar.  
 5 sheeps heads.  
 3 pigs heads.  
 Whole Carcase of sheep.  
 102 tins of assorted foods.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER  
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The majority of the notifications were again mostly of measles and whooping cough. These diseases became notifiable in October, 1939. The number of notifications and the age groups are set out in the following table.

Disease.	Total cases notified.	At ages - years.												Admitted Hospital.	Deaths.
		-1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-		
Measles.	256	5	9	11	15	18	115	63	8	9	2	1	-	4	-
Whooping Cough	112	12	10	11	10	16	50	3	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Pneumonia	11										1	5	5	1	3
Scarlet Fever	10			1		1	5	1	2					7	-
Diphtheria	2						1					1		2	-
Erysipelas	3									1		1	1	-	-
Puerperal pyrexia	3									3				-	-
Dysentery (sonne)	1					1								-	-
TOTALS.	398	17	19	23	25	35	172	67	10	13	3	8	6	16	3



NOTE:- Neither of the two cases of diphtheria had been immunised.

Diphtheria Immunisation:-

The general arrangements are the same as set out in my Report for the year 1942 and they have continued to function satisfactorily. At the end of 1943 it was estimated that 75% of children under five years of age and 84% of children between the ages of 5 and 15 had been fully protected.

Non-notifiable Infectious Diseases:-

The information regarding these diseases is more limited but there does not appear to have been any unusual incidence.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases and Mortality during 1943.

	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1				1				
5			1	2				
15	2	3		2		1		
25	4	1			1	3		
35	1	1			2	1		
45		1		1	1	1		
55								
65 and over								
TOTALS.	7	6	1	6	4	6	-	-

There were three non-notified deaths. No action has been necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

ARTHUR MORGAN,  
M.A., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

